



FI Newsletter

The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway

Fenwick Island DE 19944

Winter 2010

Greetings to All!

Now that Fall has really begun, the days are colder, the beach deserted and the off season lifestyle has taken hold of all of us who live in Fenwick year round. Even though the pace has slowed, the members of Council are still very hard at work completing their tasks at hand. The Public Safety Building Committee has been working with our Engineering firm to complete the best, most efficient building which will address the needs of our Public Safety Departments. The Charter and Ordinance Committee is still busy at work reviewing our existing code and bringing it up to date. The Budget and Audit Committee received an excellent Audit report from our Auditing Company for last fiscal year. The Budget Committee has been meeting quarterly to review the budget and the finances for our Town. And as usual the Planning Commission is meeting monthly in order to stay abreast with all aspects of our town in order to make suggestions as to keeping within our Town Plan. A small committee has been appointed to begin the groundwork planning for our new Public Park on Cannon Street and will begin their preliminary work after the first of the year. You can learn more in detail about any of these items by visiting our Town website to hear the meetings or read the minutes. It is our goal to keep our residents, whether here or away, informed in what is happening in Fenwick Island.

Even though we all lead very busy lives, this is the time of year that family and friends should be the center of our busy lives. Thanksgiving is quickly approaching and if you are blessed enough to be able to spend time with your friends and/or family, you should count this as one of many things to be thankful for. Shortly there after, sooner than later, Christmas and the Holiday Season is approaching. Whatever your belief may be, please enjoy this time however you may choose. Don't forget to think of those in need during these most difficult times.

From myself and the Council, we would like to wish you all Happy Holidays.

Audrey Serio, Mayor & Council President

Town Manager's Report

As we move toward Thanksgiving, our Town has much for which we can be thankful. Election season will be over by the time you read this. It is important though, to acknowledge those who work on your behalf.

First, we have dedicated volunteer public servants in our Mayor and Town Council. They have provided us with another balanced budget with no tax increases. We have safe beaches ensured by our dedicated beach patrol and funded, in part, by Sussex County Council under the leadership of Vance Phillips. We have several re-paved streets which were generously subsidized with grants through Representative Hocker and Senator Bunting. And, soon, we should see beach replenishment – made possible by our United States Congressional delegation.

Second, your Town continues to look forward. A new facility is being considered for the Fenwick Island Police Department. The possibility of sidewalks on both sides of Ocean Highway is being considered, as well. For these projects and others, your Council and Town staff are studying the proposals very carefully and making decisions in a very deliberate way. Getting more for your money by using grants and competitive bids is always our objective.

Finally, we can be thankful that the stormy season of last Fall and Winter spared our lives and property. The weather we endured less than a year ago should not be forgotten, though. Please prepare your home and yourself for the possibility of high winds and tidal flooding. Information about readiness is available at Town Hall. Your best local resource is the Sussex County government website:

www.sussexcountype.gov/services/storm.

Best wishes,
Win Abbott, Town Manager

Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting



The Town of Fenwick Island Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held at the Town Park on Friday, December 10, 2010 at 7:00 PM. This year's event is co-sponsored by the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company. Please join us to kick off the holiday season. It promises to be a fun event.

Charter & Ordinance Committee

The Charter & Ordinance committee continues to meet monthly, reviewing all of our current ordinances. Recent changes can be viewed on the Town's website and the audio from the meetings is also available. Our current section under consideration is Chapter 160 (Zoning). Input from our property owners and businesses is always welcome, so please attend our meetings or send us your ideas.

Charter & Ordinance Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Check the Town website for postings.

Bill Weistling, Council Member

Environmental Committee

The Fenwick Island Environment Committee held a reorganization meeting on November 9th where newly appointed member, Richard Streett was welcomed. Other members include John Belian, Vicki Carmean, Harry Haon, Buzz Henifin, Susan Klein, Mary Ellen Langan, and Lois Twilley.

The committee's first action was to affirm its Mission Statement "to provide environmental leadership and action in the community in order to promote, protect and improve the ecological integrity of the Fenwick Island community and the Little Assawoman Bay." Since the committee has met many of its original goals and objectives over the years, the group will be reviewing these in order to update its program.

Rain barrels, oyster farming, solar energy, water quality, storm water runoff and beach protection continue to be high priority topics for the committee. The next meeting will be held on December 2nd at 3:30 PM. The public is always invited to attend.

Vicki Carmean, Council Member

Fenwick Island Police Department

Summer is over and it is again time to prepare for the long winter months. There are a few steps to take if you are closing your beach home for the winter. Make sure that you turn off the water supply and either drain the system or add anti-freeze. Every year we have several incidents of a house that suffers broken pipes and water damage. A little prevention can go a long way. Winter also bring storms and high winds, so secure screens, doors and any outside furniture to prevent damage.

During winter months we have fewer residents so if you have not registered with the police using our Emergency Contact Form we encourage you to do so. Obtain the form online or contact our office to have one sent to you. If you are here year-round, please keep an eye on your neighbor's home and let us know if you see anything suspicious or out of place.

This year your police department has tried to become more aware of our carbon footprint and are using more solar powered capabilities whenever possible. We now have solar powered speed signs on Rt. 1 and solar energy collectors for our patrol vehicles.

Have a safe winter!

Chief William H. Boyden

STREET RE-NAMING

The Town has recently re-named several streets. They are:

Bay Avenue - Mermaid Street
W Essex St EXT - Ebb Tide Cove
Farmington St EXT - Windward Way
Virginia Ave - High Tide Lane
Virginia Ave EXT - Island Street
W West Virginia Ave - Oyster Bay Dr

FLOOD INSURANCE Understanding the Basics

By now, you probably know that only flood insurance covers flood damage, but you probably don't know all of the details. Here are a few of the more frequent terms:

Insurance Agent - Flood insurance can only be purchased through an insurance agent; you cannot buy it directly from the federal government. If your local insurance agent is unfamiliar with the NFIP you can contact the NFIP directly at (888) 379-9531 to request an agent referral.

Deductible - Deductibles apply separately to building and contents with different amounts to choose from. Like other insurance plans, a higher deductible will lower the premium you pay, but will also reduce your claim payment. Your mortgage lender can also set a maximum amount for your deductible.

Mandatory Requirements - Homes and businesses with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders in high-risk flood areas are required to have flood insurance. While flood insurance is not federally required if you live in a moderate-to-low risk flood area, it is still available and strongly recommended.

Rates - The NFIP, a federal program, offers flood insurance, which can be purchased through most leading insurance companies. Rates are set and do not differ from company to company or agent to agent. These rates depend on several factors including the date and type of construction of your home, along with your area's level of risk.

30-Day Waiting Period - There is typically a 30-day waiting period—from date of purchase—before a new flood policy goes into effect. Some exceptions may apply; contact your agent for further information.

Pat Schuchman, Building Official



Shuffleboard League
Contact Mary Wright
302.539.6697 for information.
Congratulations Fall Champions—
Bobbi Housley and Joyce Steele

Turkey Trot November 25
Contact Lori Martin at
hipaha@hotmail.com



FLOOD INSURANCE

Understanding the Basics

What's Covered and What Isn't ~ Flood insurance policies cover physical damage to your property and possessions. You can use the following list as a general guide to what is and isn't covered. This should not be considered a full list.

	COVERED	NOT COVERED	EXCEPTIONS
The insured building and its foundation	X		
Electrical and plumbing systems	X		
Central air conditioning equipment, furnaces, and water heaters	X		
Refrigerators, cooking stoves, and built-in appliances such as dishwashers	X		
Permanently installed carpeting over unfinished flooring	X		
Permanently installed paneling, wallboard, bookcases, and cabinets	X		
Window blinds	X		
Detached garages (up to 10 percent of Building Property coverage)	X		
Detached buildings (other than garages) require a separate Building Property policy			X
Debris removal	X		
Personal belongings, such as clothing, furniture, and electronic equipment	X		
Curtains	X		
Portable and window air conditioners	X		
Portable microwave ovens and portable dishwashers	X		
Carpets that are not included in building coverage	X		
Clothing washers and dryers	X		
Food freezers and the food in them	X		
Certain valuable items such as original artwork and furs (up to \$2,500)	X		
Damage caused by moisture, mildew, or mold that could have been avoided by the property owner		X	
Currency, precious metals, and valuable papers such as stock certificates		X	
Property and belongings outside of an insured building such as trees, plants, wells, septic systems, walks, decks, patios, fences, seawalls, hot tubs, and swimming pools		X	
Living expenses such as temporary housing		X	
Financial losses caused by business interruption or loss of use of insured property		X	
Most self-propelled vehicles such as cars, including their parts.		X	

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TOWN ELECTIONS

**ALL PERSONS WISHING TO VOTE IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS
MUST REGISTER WITH THE TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND**



To obtain a voter registration form, please contact Town Hall
302.539.3011
or download a form from the Document Center
www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

Fenwick Island Beach Patrol

The summer of 2010 was another safe and successful one for the FIBP. Weather conditions were above average this summer with air and water temperatures peaking earlier than usual. Surf conditions (rip currents) also resulted in above average activities and actions taken on the beach/water due to Atlantic storms. The combination of excellent weather and warmer water resulted in increased crowds throughout the summer. Nonetheless, the guards did an outstanding job protecting our beach. We continued to upgrade and implement training regimens and standards as recommended and required by the United States Lifesaving Association to ensure the finest training for our guards.

Competition - Our competition teams excelled once again this summer. The FIBP placed 1st in two of the six local and regional competitions (and three top 5 finishes) and was topped off by another impressive showing at the National Championship held in Huntington Beach, CA. Our five person team did extremely well with a total of 5 medals and 2nd place in the 4X100 relay and 1st place in Beach Flags. The ability to compete at this level definitely encourages the guards to work that much harder in our workouts and consequently we have very well trained lifeguards on the stand.

Junior Lifeguard Program - The Junior Lifeguard program was a huge success this year. Over 120 kids participated and culminated in 30 of them competing in the Junior Lifeguard competition in Rehoboth Beach in August. The Advanced program also had a big increase with 25 participants throughout the summer.

We had an excellent and safe summer in 2010. Our staff was outstanding and I expect many to return next year. The Beach Patrol appreciates the way the Town of Fenwick supports us and I thank you for the opportunity to serve the town.

Tim Ferry, Captain

			
Town Council	Council Calendar	Residential Trash Collection Schedule 2010 –2011	
Audrey Serio Mayor, President of Council aserio@fenwickisland.org Todd Smallwood Deputy Mayor tsmallwood@fenwickisland.org Diane Tingle Secretary dtingle@fenwickisland.org Gardner Bunting Treasurer gbunting@fenwickisland.org Vicki Carmean vcarmean@fenwickisland.org Bill Weistling wweistling@fenwickisland.org Gene Langan glangan@fenwickisland.org Win Abbott Town Manager wabbott@fenwickisland.org Town Hall Phone Numbers Phone: 302.539.3011 Fax: 302.539.1305 Police Department Phone # Phone: 302.539.2000 Officer on Duty 302.542.8793 Emergency: 911	Friday, December 10, 2010 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, January 28, 2011 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, February 25, 2011 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, March 25, 2011 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, April 22, 2011 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, May 20, 2011 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday June 24, 2011 • Council Meeting 3:30pm <div style="text-align: center;">TOWN EVENTS</div> Thursday/Friday November 25-26, 2010 • Town Hall Closed Thursday/Friday December 23-24, 2010 • Town Hall Closed Friday December 31, 2010 • Town Hall Closed Saturday January 1, 2011 • Fenwick Freeze 10:30 AM Friday, April 29, 2010 • Arbor Day	Monday only Pick-up September 28 –April 25 Heavy Trash & Appliance Pick-up June 8, 9 and 10 September 7, 8 and 9 Monday & Thursday Pick-up May 2 –September 29	Please Remember... do not place trash or recycle containers out earlier than 24 hrs in advance and remember to put them away promptly within 12 hours after pick-up.
		<u>Curbside Recycle Schedule</u> • October through April pick-ups are <u>first</u> & <u>third</u> Fridays only • May–September pickup every Friday 	Reminder: The FI Lions Club aluminum can recycling bins will remain at both the beach ends and behind town hall. Please continue to support their cause. 
		The Fenwick Island Town Council and Staff wish you happy holidays and a safe and prosperous new year. See you at the beach!	



The Seventh Annual Fenwick Freeze

Bayard Street Beach, Fenwick Island, Delaware

January 1, 2011 @ 10:30 am

Registration 9:00 - 10:00 am

The Fenwick Freeze is a great way to welcome the New Year!

Join your family, friends and neighbors....put on your bathing suits and take the plunge!

Event will be held regardless of rain, shine, snow or sleet!

All registrants will receive a commemorative shirt!

Registration:

	<u>Thru 12/30/10</u>	<u>on 1/1/11</u>
1 person	\$20 each	\$25 each
2-4 people	\$16 each	\$20 each
5-8 people	\$12 each	\$15 each

How to Register:

- Now thru Dec. 22: Complete this form and mail to address below
- Dec. 29 & 30: Complete this form and take to Town Hall between the hours of 11:00am-1:00pm
(pre-registrants may also pick-up shirts on these days)
- Jan. 1: Complete form and bring to Bayard Street Beach from 9:00am -10:00 am.

Proceeds to benefit the Fenwick Island Lifeguard National Competition Fund

Mail entry form and check (made out to **FIBC [Fenwick Island Beach Committee]**) to:

The Fenwick Freeze

c/o Becka McWilliams, 927 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Printed Name	Shirt Size (S-M-L-XL)	E-mail	Signature - Acknowledging that you have read and agree to the release statement below

Release Statement:

I recognize the risks of illness and injury inherent in any exercise program. I agree to participate and assume all risks of the Fenwick Freeze Event and any related activities. In consideration of my participation in this event, I release and hold harmless the town of Fenwick Island, their affiliates, subsidiaries, principals, and directors, agents, servants, officers, employees and contractors from any and all claims, demands and causes of action of whatever nature, which I or my successors, heirs and assigns may have now or in the future in connection with my participation in this event and related activities. I agree to obey the rules of this event. I understand that there will be no refunds and the event director reserves the right to reject any entry. By signing above, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this release.



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway
Fenwick Island DE 19944-4409

WWW.fenwickisland.delaware.gov
PH 302.539.3011 FAX 302.539.1305

Many Fenwick Island residents have their primary home in another county where property taxes support your local fire company. In Delaware, all fire companies (except Wilmington) are staffed by volunteers. These volunteers protect your property throughout the year and save taxpayers more than \$205.2 million according to a 2009 report by the State Auditor of Accounts. The additional cost for paid professional service for Fenwick Island property owners would be nearly \$300 per year (\$8.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value), depending upon the home.

State funding for these services is based largely upon a portion of insurance premiums paid on in-state policies – which have diminished with the economic downturn. The difference between state support and the actual cost of maintaining equipment is made-up by fundraising on the local level.

The Town of Fenwick Island has partnered with the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company to host a Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting in the Town Park on December 10th this year. The barbershop quartet “Nautical Sounds” will provide entertainment. Light refreshments will be served in the Town Hall after the event.

The highlight of the evening will be lighting the tree in the Town Park. The all-white display will be transformed into a red, white and blue tribute to our friends and loved ones. Colored bulbs are sponsored by donors to the BBVFC. Red bulbs signify courage and are dedicated to current and past members of the armed services, police and first responder organizations. Blue bulbs signify loyalty and are dedicated to family and neighbors that have been selfless in their service to others.

Whether you can attend or not, we encourage you to support this event and our partnership with this organization. You can sponsor as many bulbs as desired – names will be read before “the lighting”. Bulb sponsorship is just \$5. You can describe your dedication on a file card or print-out a form from the fire company website: www.bethanybeachfire.com.

Consistent with the Town of Fenwick Island’s environmentally sensitive values, we want to enable the fire company to be able to reach out to you via e-mail. Many of you have provided your e-mail for emergency contact information. If you do not wish for your e-mail to be shared *with this organization only*, please contact the Town Hall in the next ten days. Your e-mail will not be shared with others. You may, however, hear about their pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners from time-to-time. These events are great family affairs where children often get to climb into a fire truck!

Your thoughtful consideration is truly appreciated.

Win Abbott, Town Manager